

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

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IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 292311Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USCINCEUR VAIHAIGEN GERMANY

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O.11652:NA
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 28, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY SAID, AT SOME POINT, THAT
WHEN THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE RECONVENES, THE UNITED
STATES IS GOING TO FORCE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT THE SEATING OF THE
PLO THERE. IS THAT ACCURATE?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. IS THAT PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON NOW?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ON ANY NEGOTIATIONS THAT MAY BE
GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SECRETARY, I THINK,
INDICATED THE DELICACY OF THIS WHOLE PROBLEM, AND I AM NOT
ABOUT TO COMMENT.

Q. YOU REALIZE THAT A NO-COMMENT LEAVES US IN A TOTALLY
DIFFERENT SITUATION THAN IF YOU DENIED THAT REPORT. YOU

CAN'T DENY THAT REPORT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.

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Q. WHEN YOU PULLED BACK FROM YOUR STATEMENT THE OTHER DAY,
I THINK WE ASKED YOU THE OTHER DAY ABOUT SADAT'S STATE-
MENT ABOUT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THE U.S. WOULD RECOG-
NIZE THE PLO, OR AM I MIXING THE BRIEFING UP WITH A
PRIVATE STATEMENT?

A. I THINK THAT THE U.S. POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE PLO
IS VERY WELL KNOWN, AND THAT POSITION IS NOT CHANGED.

Q. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT POSITION TODAY?

Q. IS IT WHAT WAS SAID IN THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE STANDING ON?

A. THAT'S FINE. YOU CAN REFER TO IT.

Q. CAN YOU STATE THAT FOR US, PLEASE? CAN YOU STATE THE U.S. POSITION?

A. I WOULD LIKE TO GET THE TEXT OF THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW. I WILL BE GLAD TO GET IT FOR YOU, AND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID WITH REGARD TO THE PLO. I DON'T WANT TO PARAPHRASE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

Q. THE TROUBLE WITH THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW IS THAT THE QUESTION WAS: SHOULD THE U.S. ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO NEGOTIATION WITH THE PLO. AND THE ANSWER, PARAPHRASED WAS: E SAW NO REASON TO ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO DO SO UNTIL THE PLO RECOGNIZED ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE.

Q. AND FROM THE STATEMENTS HE HEARD, THERE WAS NO REASON TO ENCOURAGE ISRAEL. HE REPEATED THAT STATEMENT. BUT IT (THE SECRETARY'S NEWSWEEK STATEMENT) DIDN'T ADDRESS ITSELF, REALLY, TO WHAT THE U.S. POSITION, VIS-A-VIS THE PLO, SHOULD BE. I DON'T THINK WE HAVE REALLY HAD AN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION FOR A LONG TIME.

A. WELL, LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU A CURRENT ANSWER ON YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTION. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING NOW

Q. BECAUSE ALSO, SENATOR PERCY YESTERDAY, IN A MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH SOME NEWSMEN, SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS BEING UNREALISTIC IN NOT HAVING CONTACTS WITH THE PLO. AND THE QUESTION IS: IS HE SPEAKING JUST FOR HIMSELF, OR DOES HE ALSO SPEAK FOR THE ADMINISTRATION?

A. I THINK, IN THAT CASE, YOU MAY ASSUME VERY, VERY SAFELY THAT THE SENATOR IS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF.

Q. DOES THAT SUPPORT THE POSITION OF ISRAEL THAT ANY PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS A VETO OVER THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS?

A. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. I AM JUST WONDERING IF THE POSITION HAS CHANGED? I

SAID, DOES THE U.S. SUPPORT ISRAEL'S BELIEF THAT ANY PARTICIPANT HAS A VETO OVER WHO ELSE SHOULD PARTICIPATE.

A. THAT SOUNDS LIKE A VERY LOGICAL POSITION TO ME.

Q. IT WAS SAID SO BY THE SECRETARY.

A. YES. I GUESS THAT IS WHY IT IS LOGICAL.

Q. CAN I GO ON BACKGROUND ON THIS QUESTION, OR A COMMENT?

A. YOU CAN GIVE ANY COMMENT YOU WANT TO.

Q. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SAY IT ON THE RECORD FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT IT WAS TOLD TO US ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, THAT PERHAPS THE THIRD-RANKING OFFICER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID YES IN REFERENCE TO A VETO BY ISRAEL ON ANY PARTICIPANT AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE TOLD US AT THE OVERSEAS WRITERS' LUNCH. (FYI: LUNCH TOOK PLACE JULY 11).

A. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

Q. DID SENATOR PERCY THE SECRETARY, OR SINCE HIS RETURN FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.

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A. NO. THEY MAY HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER LAST NIGHT AT THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB DINNER, BUT THEY HAVE NOT MET TO HAVE A CONVERSATION YET ABOUT THE SENATOR'S RECENT TRIP. THEY HAVE NOT MET YET.

Q. ARE THEY GOING TO?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. IF AND WHEN THIS HAPPENS, I WILL LET YOU KNOW. END QUOTE.

THE SECRETARY SAID IN HIS NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW: "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO RECOMMEND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO UNTIL THE PLO ACCEPTS THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL

AS A LEGITIMATE STATE. AS LONG AS THE PLO PROPOSALS ENVISAGE, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL, WE DON'T SEE MUCH HOPE FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE PLO."

EARLIER IN HIS NOVEMBER 15 PRESS CONFERENCE THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID REGARDING MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS: "... AS TO ANY OTHER PARTIES THAT MIGHT NEGOTIATE, THIS IS ENTIRELY A

DECISION FOR ISRAEL AND FOR ANY OF THE OTHER PARTIES THAT
MAY BE INVOLVED, AND IT IS NOT A MATTER ON WHICH THE
UNITED STATES WILL GIVE ADVICE AS TO THE CONDITIONS IN
WHICH SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE APPROPRIATE, IF INDEED IT
IS APPROPRIATE." KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE021177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MHVAN ORDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750034-0030
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975019/aaaaahqa.tel
Line Count: 228
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JAN 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF, PLO, NEWSWEEK, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006